

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00913 101418 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 101233 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9351

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 913

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

REF STATE 56675

1. NOW THAT DEPSEC' S STOP IN COLOMBO IS ON, WE SHOULD LIKE TO MENTION TWO POINTS THAT MAY COME UP DURING MEETING WITH PM AND THAT MAY NOT HAVE OCCURRED TO DEPT. (WE ASSUME TOPIC OF TERRORISM IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN PAPERS UNDER PREPARATION FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS (REFTEL).)

2. FIRST IS THAT PM MAY ASK US FOR A LITTLE MORE FINANCIAL HELP. COUNTRY IS IN SEVERE STRAITS AND IS CASTING ABOUT FOR WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT CAN GET. WE RECOMMEND DEPSEC RESPOND FIRST BY REFERRING TO PLEDGE OF \$15 TO \$18 MILLION IN PL 480 WHEAT FLOUR AT RECENT PARIS MEETING AND BY STRESSING CURRENT BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS UPON US. WE WOULD HOPE THAT DEPSEC WOULD THEN NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FURTHER ASSISTANCE BUT WOULD STATE THAT REQUEST (WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT FORM IT MAY TAKE, IF MADE) WILL BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

3. SECOND POINT IS THAT MRS. B MAY ALLUDE SUBTLY TO POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS YEAR. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL SHE TOLD SEN MATHIAS SHE WAS CONTEMPLATING ATTENDING COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTER' S CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA IN AUGUST
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(COLOMBO 336). WE RECOMMEND THAT, IF SHE DOES INDICATE EX-
PLICITLY THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN CONN-
ECTION OTTAWA TRIP, DEPSEC RESPOND POSITIVELY IN TERMS OF
CONSIDERING INFORMAL RPT INFORMAL VISIT. A SIMPLE VISIT
LIKE HER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ONE OF OCT 71 WOULD HELP REINFORCE
PRESENT GOOD TREND IN OUR RELATIONS AND, AT LITTLE COST,
WOULD PROVIDE PARTIAL POLITICAL COUNTERWEIGHT TO HER EXTENDED
VISIT TO PEKING LAST YEAR.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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